

# CURRICULUM COUNCIL

September 29, 2010 - Minutes

- ☐ **Welcome & Introductions:** We welcomed Beverly Abram to the group as our volunteer West-End language arts curriculum council member. Beverly currently teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade English/reading at West Snyder Middle School. She has a strong background in literacy and will be a great addition to the group.
- ☐ **Website & Wiki:** All curriculum council information and handouts are located under the CC-September 2010 link on the wiki. We worked directly in the wiki as a mini training session in order to provide members with an opportunity to explore the site and access documents. We also looked at the curriculum area of the website (located under Academics) that includes areas for future growth. Our goal will be to populate the area with Midd-West curriculum and academic information.
- ☐ **Communication** - We discussed the importance of communicating back to other faculty members in departments and/or buildings. Some council members have created a distribution group in order to communicate back to their department via email. Other council members will be using a few minutes at their faculty meeting to distribute information back to other faculty members. Most importantly, we need to be sharing our work in curriculum council with all teachers throughout the district, so that they are aware and knowledgeable about our work.
- ☐ **Review of 2010 End-of-Year Surveys:** Quick review and mention of notable items and items to continue or change as a result of your feedback. See documents located on the wiki under curriculum council.
- ☐ **PSSA Ranking Document:** Review document located on the wiki. Remember the document has filters for ease of manipulating data.
- ☐ **Prioritizing Our Work**
  - Continued support of writer's workshop
  - Continued support of SAS & LFS curriculum development
  - Integration of literacy strategies across content areas
- ☐ **Common Core Standards:** Mini posters for content-area reading and writing standards were distributed to council members. These standards are specific to the integrated standards for science, social studies and technical subjects. It is important that all content area teachers become familiar with these standards as we will be working towards integrating them into our curriculum. Let Daphne know if you need copies. The complete CCS-Reading/Writing document is located on the wiki.
- ☐ **Planning October 11, 2010 Professional Development:** See schedule located on the wiki. If you are a 6 – 12 content area council member, let Daphne know if you need assistance developing an agenda for your time the afternoon of October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ **CDTs & Keystone Exams:** Please read information posted on the wiki. We will be field testing this fall the reading classroom diagnostic test across grades 4 – 9, as well as the Literature, Biology and Algebra I Keystone exam. This will provide for us a sneak-peak at the test before official implementation. We will not be field testing all students in a particular grade level, only a small group or sampling in each.

- ☐ **PAIU Information:** Please read information posted on the wiki.
- ☐ **Future Department/Grade Level Meetings:** Department chairs or subject area coordinators will develop a schedule for ½ hour meetings to occur one time per month (per contract) for October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May. These meetings may be held as grade level or as a department. Department chairs or subject area coordinators should consult with other members of your group(s) in order to come up with a plan. Plans are due to Daphne by October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ 2010 Book Study: *Because Writing Matters: Improving Student Writing in Our Schools* Read introduction and chapter one before next meeting.
- ☐ Reading Apprenticeship – Cohort 2: **To Do: Send Daphne names of interested participants ASAP.**
- ☐ SAS – December Institute (*Informational*) Information located on the wiki.
- ☐ Teacher Evaluation Information (*Informational*) Information located on the wiki.
- ☐ Textbook Matrix – Due before you leave for Christmas break: Review and verify textbooks on the matrix.
- ☐ Howard Gardner to Speak – November 10, 2010 @ 7:00 PM  
Mitrani Hall, Haas Center for the Performing Arts, Bloomsburg University

Thank you for your time and attention!

Best,

*Daphne*



*As we consider the issues of standards and assessments, we need to consider what kind of accountability is genuine accountability, and what kind of strategies, in fact, enhance teaching and learning.*

*-- Linda Darling-Hammond, "Making Relationships Between Standards, Frameworks, Assessments, Evaluation, Instruction, and Accountability," p. 2*